

I was in a lousy marriage between 1996 and 2005. I filed for divorce in 2005 and was very happy. In 2005 I was 32 years old my Gynecologist felt a lump in my right breast told me not to worry about it because some women simply have lumpy breast and that I was too young to get breast cancer. In 2006 I began noticing a honey color droplet that had dried on the nipple and I was concerned. I was working 2 jobs & didn't have insurance so I attempted to go to a place that helped people with low incomes. I was accepted and had an appointment 6 weeks from that day.

3 weeks before I canceled my appointment because I found out that I was pregnant and they paused and said, "okay". If I had known that there was ultrasounds available to detect cancer I would have done it but then they may have suggested that I not go through the pregnancy. My husband and I married after finding out about our baby. We wanted to wait a little longer but under the circumstances it just sped things up a bit. I gave birth to a healthy boy in Jan. 2007.

Not long after I had problems with hemorrhoids and fissures. Fissures are very painful! Every time I went to the bathroom it felt like knives. I went to the dr. and they had me go through a colonoscopy but I explained that there was not a problem on the inside but on the outside...did it anyway. They told me that I had hemorrhoids and fissures and went to a different Dr.

After about 6 weeks of breast feeding I went to get a mammogram done. I didn't have enough information and rescheduled. I went again and they told me that I needed to stop breast feeding and to come back. I celebrated my birthday and went back 4 days afterwards. After a mammogram and an ultrasound about 3 women came into the room and I knew that, that was not good. The nurse said, "The right has to go." I was shocked because no one in our family has had breast cancer which has led me to believe that cancer is cancer (I do have various types of cancer in my family). Since they were not very busy that day I went ahead with the biopsy. They told me that I was in stage 1. All I remember doing is cracking jokes. I told my husband over the phone and drove home.

I decided to have both breast removed so that I didn't have to worry about it anymore. The Dr. said, "but you're so young, are you sure that you want to remove both?". I said, "yes". She also continued and said that I was in stage 2 and my husband and I did a double take...stage 2!?! When they took it out it was 7.5cm plus 26 lymph nodes had been removed (2 were positive).

In the month of May I had them removed and when I awoke from surgery I felt as if I had been hit by a bus! The next day I was in pain all over but once I got home and took my pain meds I was great! We had family fly in to help us out. I was not to pick up my baby boy for weeks! I did a couple of times anyway.

I didn't know about this until just recently but my husband said that besides all of our friends being wonderful there was one or two guys who said, "so are you going to take the kid and split?". My husband was disgusted that they would even say that....it's scary to think about but it does happen.

What I didn't know about was the tubes that you'd have to put up with for a week or so. They basically drain liquid out from the breast into a plastic grenade type of container. The first time that they needed to be drained I had a nurse come by and do it because I had not looked at my boobs yet...I was too afraid. A day later I decided to do it myself. You had to measure how much fluid you dump out and write it down. I saw myself for the first time and I was okay. I did have expanders in to stretch my skin out to have implants later. If I had been flat it probably would have been more difficult psychologically.

Since they had removed lymph nodes my underarm was numb and still is (always will be).

My chemo sessions were to come up and they told me that there would be possible constipation, weakness ect... I was still crying went I used the bathroom due to my fissures and told the Dr. that I have to put chemo off until I had something done about my fissures because the constipation would be unbearable....I was having a hard enough time being a new mom, being supportive of my husband, dealing with being boobless. Once things were in order and I started chemo I started to loose my very long hair after the 2nd session.

I went ahead and shaved it. It was tough. To me the most important thing about being an attractive woman was long hair and boobs...you can say that it is whats inside a person that counts but when this happens to you, you will feel a bit different. I had always told myself that I would never cry about my cancer/breast removal more than 5 minutes and I never have.

To make this long story shorter: I wish that insurance covered the price for wigs. You may not use your hair like arms or legs but it is used to keep your self esteem a but higher in a terrible time. I wore my wigs for a whole year. Also...my husband has been so important to me and has helped me through this mess. I am grateful to him for eternity. He still treats me the same as he always has....like gold!